AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-82 (Cancelled)

83. (Currently Amended) A method of lowering cholesterol in a mammal in need thereof, wherein said mammal expresses a functional low density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor, said method comprising intravascularly administering to said mammal a replication-defective adenoviral vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a secreted polypeptide consisting of ~~having at least 90% sequence identity to an amino acid sequence comprising at least~~ amino acid residues 1-185 of SEQ ID NO:2 or amino acid residues 1-185 of SEQ ID NO:2 and one or more of amino acids 186-259 of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein ~~said nucleic acid does not encode amino acids 260-299 of SEQ ID NO:2 and~~ said polypeptide, when expressed in said mammal, lowers the total serum cholesterol level without inducing hypertriglyceridemia.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said polypeptide has at least 90% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-202 of SEQ ID NO:2.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84, wherein said polypeptide has 100% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-202 of SEQ ID NO:2.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said polypeptide has at

least 90% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-229 of SEQ ID NO:2.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein said polypeptide has 100% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-229 of SEQ ID NO:2.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said polypeptide has at least 90% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-259 of SEQ ID NO:2.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, wherein said polypeptide has 100% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-259 of SEQ ID NO:2.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said polypeptide has 100% sequence identity to amino acid residues 1-185 of SEQ ID NO:2.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said vector is administered intravenously.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 91, wherein said vector is administered to an artery at the site of a lesion.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said mammal lacks an endogenous, normally functioning apoE gene.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said mammal is at risk for developing atherosclerosis due to accumulation of lipoprotein remnants in the bloodstream.

95. (Previously Presented) The method claim of 83, wherein said nucleic acid is administered to or expressed in the liver of said mammal.

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said polypeptide further comprises a signal peptide.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96, wherein said signal peptide comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said nucleic acid encodes amino acids 1-203 of an apoE preprotein of any one of SEQ ID Nos. 14-19.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said nucleic acid encodes amino acids 1-220 of an apoE preprotein of any one of SEQ ID Nos. 14-19.

100. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said nucleic acid encodes amino acids 1-247 of an apoE preprotein of any one of SEQ ID Nos. 14-19.

101. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said nucleic acid encodes amino acids 1-277 of an apoE preprotein of any one of SEQ ID Nos. 14-19.